

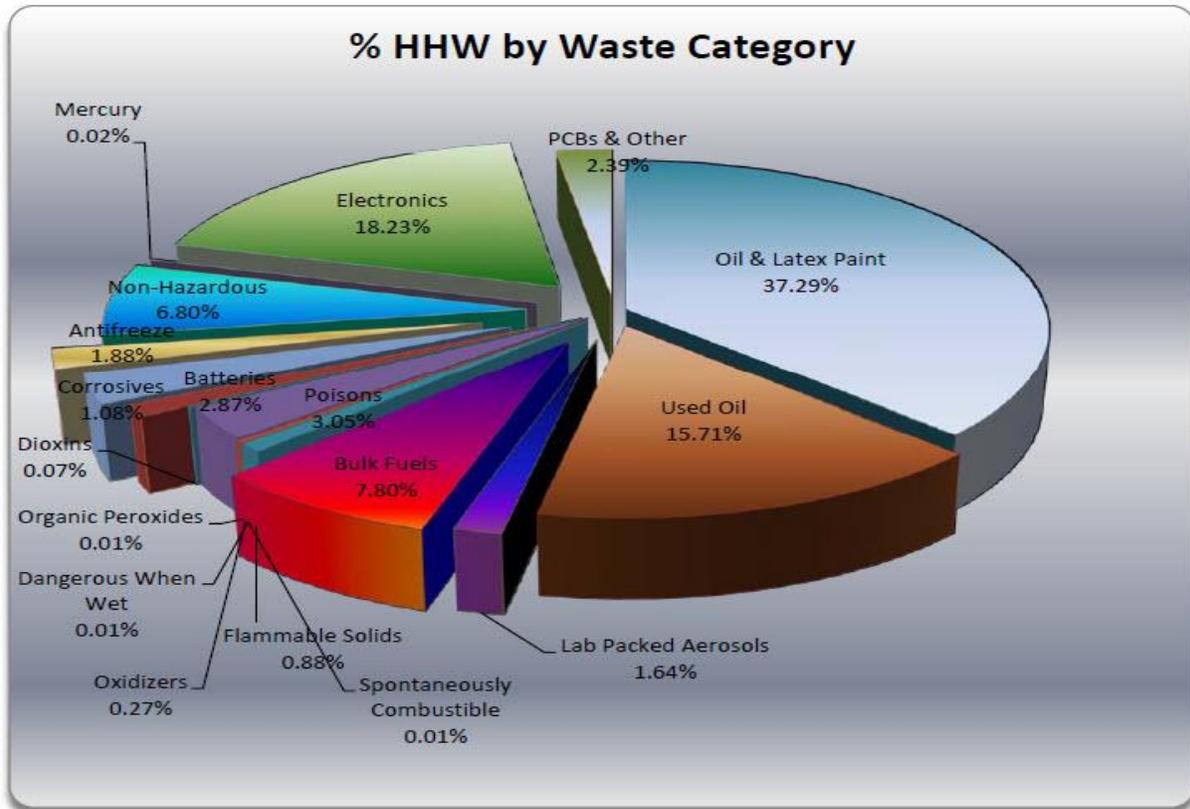
**STOP, DON'T MIX THOSE  
CHEMICALS!**

**READ THE LABEL FIRST!**



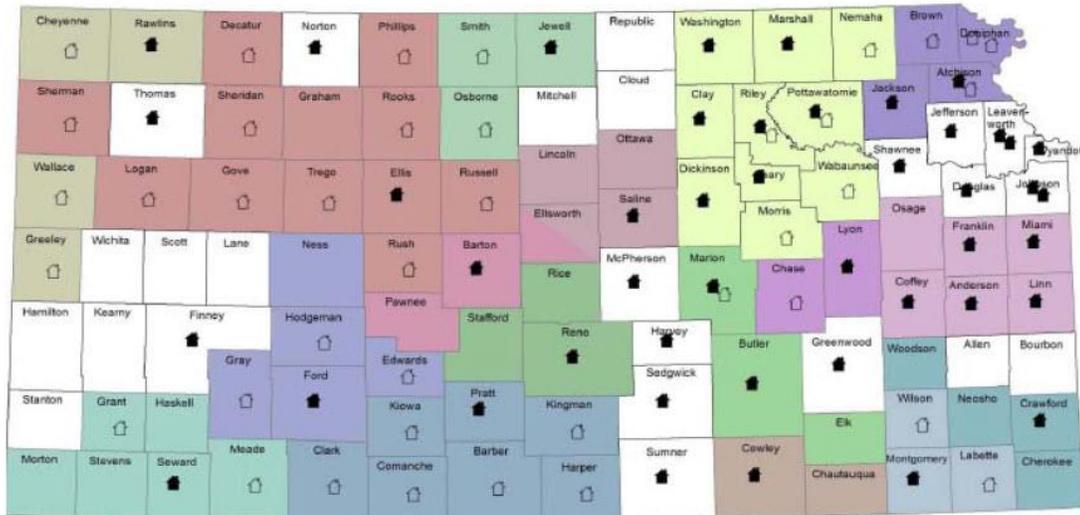
**Kansas Division of Emergency Management  
Technological Hazards Section  
*Don't Mix Chemicals! Read the Label First! Campaign***

The State of Kansas has a program called, the Kansas Household Hazardous Waste Program, HHW, *Statutory Authority K.S.A. 65-3460*. This program was designed to protect Kansas groundwater by reducing, recycling, diverting and replacing the use of household hazardous products. This program has allowed counties in Kansas to establish satellite locations where hazardous waste can be disposed of properly.



We have so many chemicals around our homes that we need to use them carefully and also dispose of them properly.

## Kansas Household Hazardous Waste Facility Map



 Permanent Facility       Satellite Facility

Shaded counties are part of a region

Chemicals pose a threat to sanitation workers, public health, and the environment when improperly handled or disposed. If products are disposed of with the trash they can contaminate the air or groundwater, mix with other chemicals in the trash and cause dangerous reactions, or even cause injury or death.



Chemicals are a natural and important part of our environment. Even though we often don't think about it, we use chemicals every day. They can be found in our kitchens, medicine cabinets, basements, and garages. Chemicals help us keep our food fresh and our bodies clean.

A home chemical emergency happens when chemicals are used improperly. Some chemicals that are safe, and even helpful in small amounts, can be harmful in larger quantities or under certain conditions. In fact, *most chemical accidents occur in our own homes and they can be prevented.*

You can learn to prevent household chemical accidents by:

- 1.) Reading the Label and
- 2.) Learning about household chemical safety.



You can find information on the Environmental Protection Agency website:

[www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/poisonprevention.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/poisonprevention.htm)



Shawnee County Household Waste Chemical Facility



Olathe County Household Waste Chemical Facility

## Commonly asked questions when taking Household Hazardous Waste to a facility...

**Will I have to sort my items before I go to the facility?**

**Not always, the facility has people that will sort your items and place each chemical in its own area.**

**Are the facilities open every day?**

**You will have to check with the facility near you for their hours of operation. Some counties have special event days that they will set up drop off locations for the public to bring their items. Some facilities are by appointment only.**

**Is there a fee?**

**Call the facility before taking your products to the facility.**



**A listing of Kansas Household Hazardous Waste Facilities for the state of Kansas are listed in the back of this booklet.**



Sorters from the facility sort each item that is dropped off.



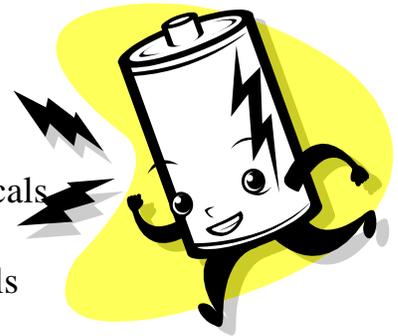
Liquids are placed into drums that will be sealed and disposed of properly.

## Some of the most common household hazardous waste (HHW)

### products are:



- Pesticides
- Paints
- Varnishes
- Paint thinners and other solvents
- Motor oil, antifreeze other automobile fluids
- Household cleaners
  - Polishes
  - Waxes
- Wood preservatives
- Photo development chemicals
  - Hobby chemicals
- Swimming pool chemicals
  - Batteries
  - Florescent bulbs
  - Electronics
  - Pharmaceuticals



When you look at product containers it clearly states on the label the following information:



■ **DIRECTIONS FOR USE**

■ **PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS:** This tells the consumer that the product is hazardous to humans and animals

■ **CAUTION STATEMENT:** What can happen if you get the chemical in your eyes, ingest it, or get it on your skin



■ **FIRST AID:** What to do if an accident happens

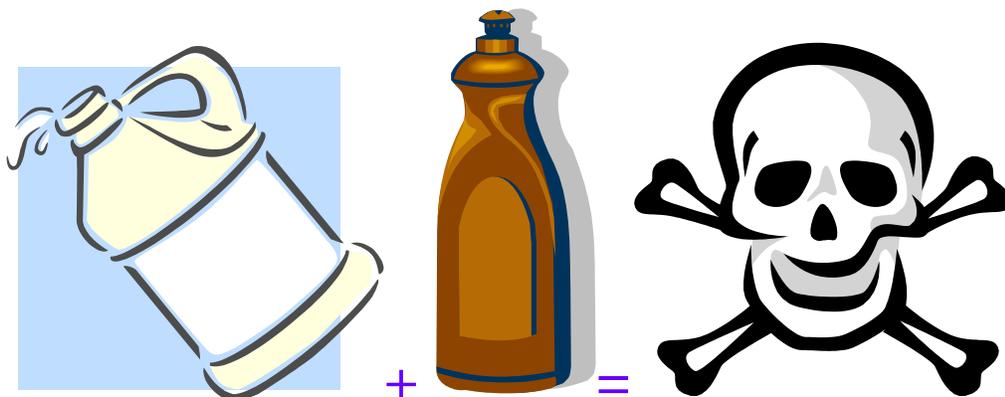
■ **ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS:** Risk of damage to the environment

■ **PHYSICAL OR CHEMICAL HAZARDS:** Information about how the substance can threaten your safety

■ **STORAGE AND DISPOSAL:** Where to store or how to dispose of the product

**CHILDREN PLEASE STAY AWAY FROM CHEMICALS!**

## Bleach + Ammonia=Toxic



When reading labels look for the signal words  
**Danger, Warning or Caution.**

**Danger** is the strongest signal word. If a label has the word **Danger** on it, your parents must be extremely careful using the product. If it is used the wrong way, you could get very sick, be hurt for a long time, go blind or even die. **Danger** is also used on products that could explode if they get hot.

**Warning** is less strong than **Danger**, but it still means that you could get really sick or become seriously hurt. **Warning** is also used to identify products that can easily catch on fire.

**Caution** shows that the product could hurt you, but it is less harmful than products with a danger or warning signal word. **Caution** is used on products that could bother your skin, make you sick if you breathed the fumes, or really hurt if the product got in your eyes.

For more information visit: <http://www.epa.gov/kidshometour/labels.htm>

Danger

# OVEN CLEANER

## DANGER



### HAZARD STATEMENTS:

Causes severe skin burns and eye damage.

### PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS:

- Wear Protective gloves, protective clothing, eye protection, face protection.
  - Wash ... thoroughly after handling
  - **IF SWALLOWED:** Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting.
  - **IF IN EYES:** Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses if present and easy to do. continue rinsing
  - **IF ON SKIN:** Remove/Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water/shower.
  - Dispose of contents/container in accordance with local regulations.
- SEE SDS FOR MORE INFORMATION

Poison



Caution



Warning



**Things we can do at home and around chemicals to keep everyone and everything safe:**

- **STORE HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS, BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LABEL;**
- **AVOID MIXING CHEMICAL PRODUCTS;**
- **KEEP ALL MEDICINES, MAKEUP, AND CLEANING PRODUCTS OUT OF SIGHT AND OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN;**
- **ALWAYS READ THE DIRECTIONS;**
- **DON'T USE PRODUCTS NEAR AN OPEN FLAME;**
- **LEARN HOW TO DISPOSE OF CHEMICALS PROPERLY;**
- **DON'T SMOKE WHILE USING HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS;**
- **IF YOU ACCIDENTLY SPILL A CHEMICAL CLEAN IT UP ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS;**
- **DON'T STOCKPILE CLEANING SUPPLIES;**
- **PURCHASE AN A-B-C- RATED FIRE EXTINGUISHER FOR YOUR HOME;**
- **LEARN ABOUT THE SYMPTOMS OF TOXIC POISONING:**



- ✓ **Difficulty breathing**
- ✓ **Irritation of the eyes, skin, throat, or respiratory tract**
- ✓ **Headaches or blurred vision**
- ✓ **Changes in skin color**
- ✓ **Dizziness**
- ✓ **Lack of coordination**
- ✓ **Cramps or diarrhea**



## Don't Flush Your Medicines Down the Toilet!

- A recent study shows that 80 percent of US streams contain small amounts of human medicines.
- Sewage systems cannot remove these medicines from water that is released into lakes, rivers or oceans.
- Fish and other aquatic animals have shown adverse effects from medicines in the water.
- And, even very small amounts of medicine have been found in drinking water.

[http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/publications/dont\\_flush\\_meds.pdf](http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/publications/dont_flush_meds.pdf)

## How to dispose of medications at home

*Follow these steps to protect your privacy and reduce unintended drug use while saving the environment.*



1. Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.
2. Mix drugs with something undesirable such as sawdust, kitty litter, or coffee grounds.
3. Put the mixture into a disposable container with a lid (such as a margarine tub)..
4. Remove any personal information on the prescription bottle.
5. Place in the sealed container in the trash.

<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/ppcp/upload/ppcpflyer.pdf>

Remember to keep medicines away from children!

Other ways to properly dispose of unused medicine:

**Pharmacy Take-Back program:** Ask your pharmacist if the pharmacy will accept old medicines back from patients.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection:** Listing of HHW in the back of this booklet

FAQ to the State of Kansas Household Hazardous Waste Program  
Director: *Are common places with a pharmacy like Walgreens, Dillon's, and Wal-Mart part of the Pharmacy Take-Back program?*

No. Those pharmacies do not participate because they are corporate level pharmacies and currently do not want to adopt the policies for the program. It is only small independent pharmacies that are signed up right now. The pharmacies must pay for the disposal; it is not funded or paid for by anyone else. So far no corporate pharmacies have been so generous.

**Contact your local HHW facility for more information!**



According to the Los Angeles Times, “from 1990 through 2006, more than 267,000 children age 5 or under were treated in U.S. emergency rooms for injuries connected to household hazardous waste products. There were 22,141 such injuries in 1990, researchers found, and 11,964 in 2006.”

You can be exposed to chemicals and not even know it!  
You may not be able to see or smell anything unusual.  
You can be exposed in three different ways:

- ✓ Breathing the fumes;
- ✓ Touching the chemical, or coming into contact with clothing or things that have touched the chemical;
- ✓ Swallowing contaminated food, water, or medication.

The best way to avoid chemical accidents is to **“READ THE LABEL”** and follow the directions for use, storage, and disposal of the product.



Before mixing up  
pesticides  
**“READ THE LABEL”**

## **What to do if you have an accident involving a household product:**

If you, or someone you are with, have an accident or are exposed to a pesticide or household product you should tell your parents or other adult in your home immediately. Tell them what happened. Tell them what pesticide or household product it was. If possible, have the container and label with you. Tell them how much you came in contact with and what part of your body came in contact with it (Was it your eyes or skin or did you swallow some?) If an adult is not close by and you are hurt or starting to feel sick, then do the following:

- If someone splashes a household chemical in the eyes, rinse out the eyes for 15-20 minutes in the shower or under a faucet. Then call your poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. You can also call 911 or your local emergency ambulance number.
- If someone splashes a household chemical on the skin, take off the wet clothing and rinse the skin for 15-20 minutes in the shower or under a faucet. Then call your poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. You can also call 911 or your local emergency ambulance number.
- If someone drinks a household chemical, give them half a glass of water to drink. Then call your poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. You can also call 911 or your local emergency ambulance number.
- If someone inhaled a poisonous gas, quickly get the person to fresh air. Do not breath the fumes yourself. Open all the doors and windows wide. Call your poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. You can also call 911 or your local emergency ambulance number.
- If someone is not breathing or won't wake up, call 911 or your local emergency ambulance number.

Be prepared for any emergency in your home. Keep your local emergency number, local ambulance number and the local poison control center telephone numbers on or next to your phone. All poison control centers now have the same telephone number. It is 1-800-222-1222.

**For more information visit:**

**<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/kids/hometour/accident.htm>**

**Products are classified as hazardous if they have one of the following characteristics:**

**IGNITABLE** - Flammable or Combustible. Paint, thinners, other solvents and automotive products are the most flammable home products. Look for words on the product label like:

**CORROSIVE** - Corrodes or "eats" through materials. Oven cleaners, drain cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners and auto batteries are common corrosive products. Look for words on the product label like:

**TOXIC** - Substance that is harmful or fatal when ingested or absorbed. Pesticides, solvents and some cleaners are toxic. Look for words on the product label like:

**REACTIVE** - Can explode when exposed to heat, air, water or shock.

For more information visit:

- <http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/characteristic.htm>

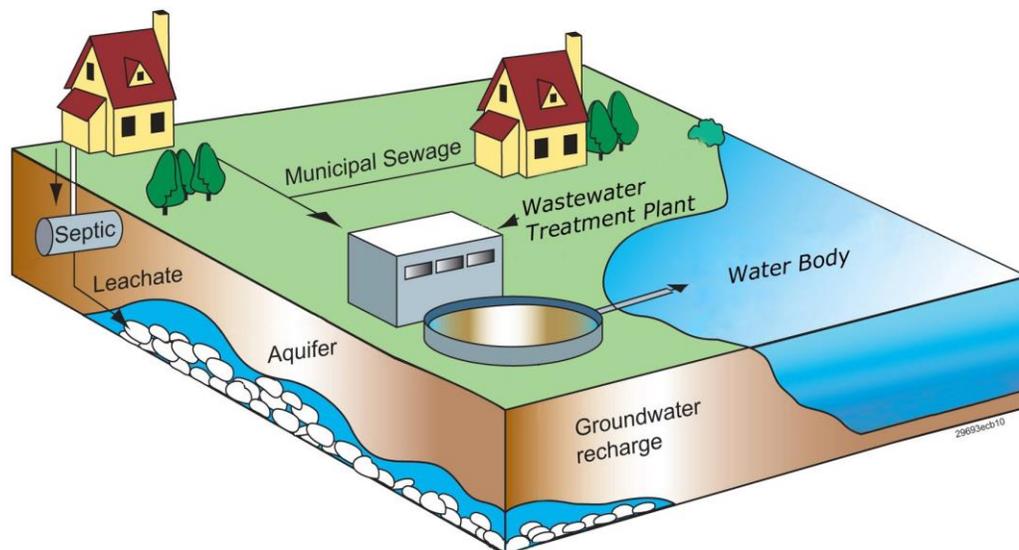


**Why we shouldn't pour chemicals down the drain!** The reason is that toxic materials in the wastewater can kill the helpful bacteria and the system will not operate properly. Some toxic materials move through the soil untreated or unchanged. When this happens ground water or surface waters may become contaminated.



## What we pour down the drain will eventually make its way back into our body through the water supply.

For example, in homes that use septic tanks, prescription and over-the-counter drugs flushed down the toilet can leach into the ground and seep into ground water. In cities and towns where residences are connected to wastewater treatment plants, prescription and over-the-counter drugs poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet can pass through the treatment system and enter rivers and lakes. They may flow downstream to serve as sources for community drinking water supplies. Water treatment plants are generally not equipped to routinely remove medicines.



For more information visit:

<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/ppcp/upload/ppcpflyer.pdf>



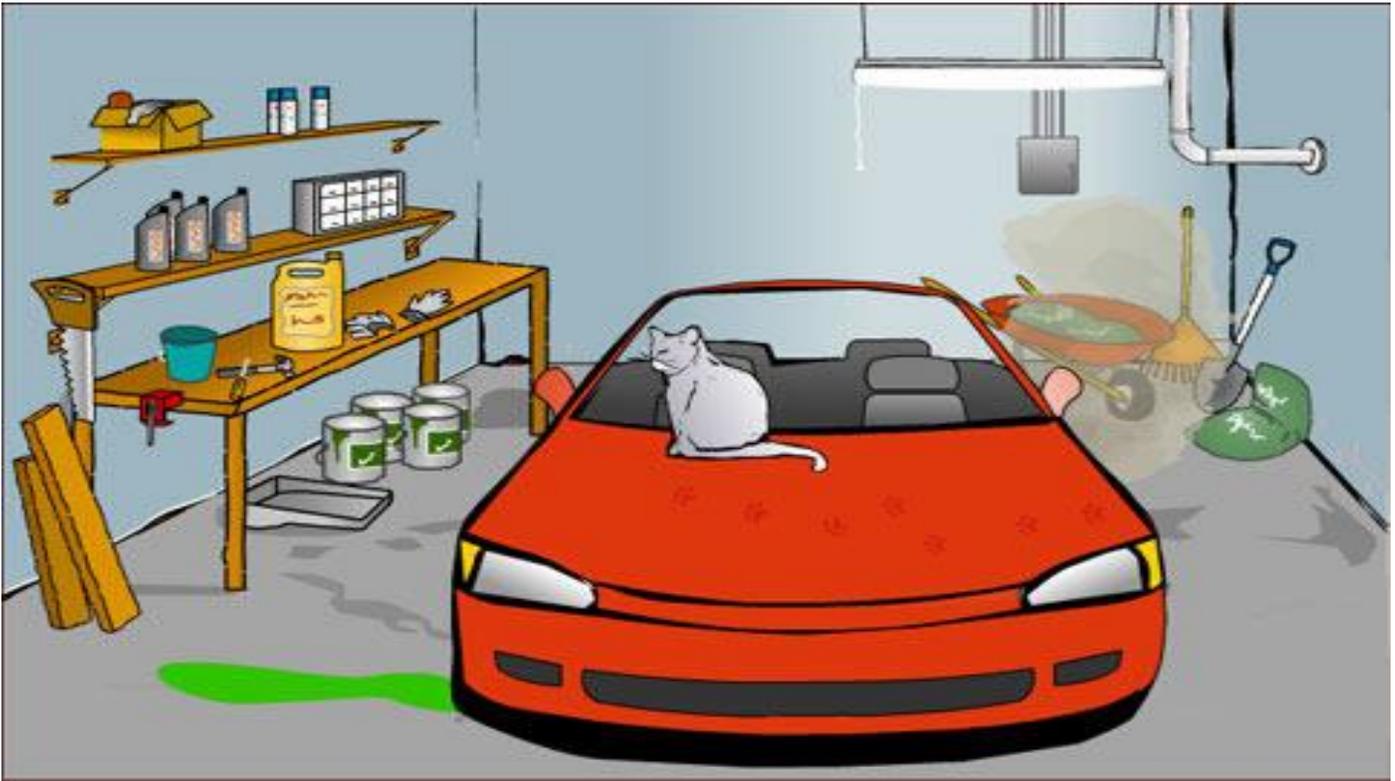
**Are these products in a safe place?**



**Yes they are, they are in a cabinet out of reach of children and there is a lock on the cabinet door!**

**Adults please store medicine, cleaners, paints, pesticides, and varnishes in their original packaging in a locked cabinet out of sight and reach of children.**

Can you name some dangers you see in the garage?



Even animals are in danger of exposure to household hazardous chemicals. The cat may lick the chemical spilled on the floor or eat the fertilizer in the wheel barrow. These items should also be put away properly to keep them out of the reach of children.

Never leave your car on in a closed garage because it can produce deadly carbon monoxide gas.



## **KEEP YOUR PETS AWAY FROM HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS**

**Make your home a safer place for your pets by keeping them away from the following hazardous household items:**

### **Household Items**

1. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (ibuprofen, aspirin, etc)
2. Acetaminophen
3. Cold and flu medications
4. Antidepressants
5. Vitamins
6. Home insect products
7. Rat & mouse bait
8. Bleach
9. Diet pills
10. Disinfectants
11. Fabric softener
12. Lead
13. Lighter fluid
14. Mothballs
15. Anti-cancer drugs
16. Solvents (paint thinners, etc)
17. Flea & tick products
18. Drain cleaners
19. Liquid potpourri
20. Slug & snail bait
21. Oven cleaner sprays
22. Lime/scale remover
23. Fly bait
24. Detergents
25. Tobacco products

**If all of your precautions fail, and you believe that your pet has been poisoned, contact your veterinarian or emergency veterinarian service immediately.**

**Signs of poisoning include listlessness, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle tremors, lack of coordination, and fever.**

**You can also contact the ASPCA poison control line at:  
1-888-426-4435.**

**For more information visit:**

**[http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/common\\_household\\_dangers\\_pets.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/common_household_dangers_pets.html)**

**Or:**

**<http://www.aspcapetinsurance.com/101/home-hazards-household-items.aspx>**



Fred the Preparedness Dog says,

**"DON'T MIX CHEMICALS!  
READ THE LABEL FIRST!"**

Kelly reads the labels before she does the laundry. She wants to make sure that the chemicals she is using are safe when mixed together.





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